

Murray State University

**College of Education
COURSE SYLLABUS
Fall, 2012**

INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION:

Dr. Michael Basile
3105 Alexander Hall
Office hours: mornings or by appointment
Tel: 270-809-6467
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DEPARTMENT: Early Childhood & Elementary Education

COURSE PREFIX/NUMBER/CREDIT HOURS: EDU 632/3 credits

I. TITLE:

Comparative Education

II. COURSE DESCRIPTION AND PREREQUISITE(S):

A systematic examination of education in various nations for the purpose of an enlarged critical view of education in the United States. The course looks at cross-cutting issues that confront schooling and various approaches to address them. Teachers and school administrators interested in school improvement and reforms in various cultural contexts would find insights and material for curricular and organizational application.

Prerequisites: Graduate standing and advisor/program approval.

III. COURSE OBJECTIVES:

The student will be able to:

- A. Study education reform and improvement efforts in several countries
- B. Identify and analyze cross-cutting issues that impact these efforts
- C. Concentrate analysis on a specific country or region and present findings
- D. Explore relationships claimed between education and various approaches to economic and social development.

IV. CONTENT OUTLINE:

- A. Education reform across the globe
 1. Various approaches to reform
 2. Reforms in East Asia, Sub-Saharan Africa, Central Asia, the Americas, the Middle East
 3. Reform in the United States
- B. Cross-cutting issues
 1. Gender
 2. Cross-national comparison
 3. Citizenship
 4. Conflict resolution

- C. Education and development
 1. The school in the historical context of bipolar competition
 2. Education as a tool of modernization
 3. Education and globalization

V. INSTRUCTIONAL ACTIVITIES:

The course is offered entirely online. All instructional activities are conducted through Blackboard software in asynchronous mode. This affords maximum flexibility for students enrolled from different locations. Generally, instructional activities will involve the following:

- A. Readings in text, on reserve, and outside sources
- B. Country, region, and case analytical reports
- C. Cross-cutting issue papers
- D. Discussion board participation

VI. FIELD, CLINICAL, AND/OR LABORATORY EXPERIENCES:

The course requires reference to current and/or previous experience in American or other national schooling contexts. It does not require new field or laboratory work. It is assumed that teaching and/or administrative responsibilities are of primary interest.

VII. TEXT AND RESOURCES:

Text:

Mundy, K. et al., Eds. *Comparative and International Education: Issues for Teachers*. New York: Teachers College Press, 2008.

Resources:

- Library electronic reserve readings
- Other sources related to subject matter and individual reports
- As a Murray State University enrolled student, you may access all services and resources through our libraries, the internet, Blackboard, and academic advisement. MSU's international office would also be available to interview staff, international, and study abroad students. A reserve readings reference list is provided *as an initial point of departure* in the Blackboard "Course Documents" folder. The text assigned will be used throughout the duration of the course.

VIII. EVALUATION AND GRADING PROCEDURES:

Evaluation:

All assignments are laid out according to each of the four sections in Blackboard's "Assignments" folder. Generally, course submission deadlines must be observed for full grade consideration. *Late submissions will adversely affect the grade you earn for each assignment.* All assignments are to be posted into the appropriate Assignments column. Each will be evaluated according to the respective standards provided in their specific assignment descriptions. Evaluations are usually inserted into the submitted paper through the comments function provided in MSWord. All assigned work is expected to be done in MSWord or compatible and convertible software. Evaluated assignments will be reposted to you in your individual Blackboard grade access column.

Discussion Board threads are also graded according to extent and quality of participation. Guidelines for each discussion board thread may be found in the Assignments folder for each

course section. The guidelines are listed on the Assignments sheet in chronological order of dates due.

The instructor expects professional quality performance on all written work submitted for credit in this course. Professional quality performance includes: a) proper grammatical construction and spelling, b) logical and clear presentation of content, c) neat, well-structured documents, and d) proper documentation of sources.

Your papers require you to identify, select, and integrate pertinent information that supports conclusions and findings. The published literature you consult to treat the topic requires a specific and recognized format for citations you insert into the text as well as for the bibliography at the end. For assistance with preparation of writing assignments, MSU has a writing services center located in the central Waterfield Library building. The MSU library has also assigned a specialist in education, Ms. Katherine Farmer, for you to consult for content and other database access assistance. Her contact information is:

Phone: 270-809-6180; email: kfarmer10@murraystate.edu, or [Click here](#) to contact her through the library. In the event this quick link fails to work, please copy the URL below here for your browser:

<http://libguides.murraystate.edu/edleadership>

For text and other publication and website information, please refer to the appropriate sections of the syllabus and the assignments folder. Detailed instructions for all assignments, including the final paper, are provided in the appropriate section of the Blackboard “Assignments” folder. In general, all submissions must:

1. be typewritten double-spaced, 12pt. font, 1 inch margins;
2. include full citations using APA style for the social sciences. For guidance on the APA format, as well as research paper writing in general, you may [Click here](#). If this link fails to work, you may insert the full URL into your browser: <http://libguides.murraystate.edu/content.php?pid=117791&sid=1144701>, and
3. include an appropriate, relevant bibliography.

Grading information and scale:

Most course work is in the form of short research papers and reports based on your own teaching or work context. The evaluation of the work you submit is based on its quality. *Because I do not use tests of any kind, make sure your writing meets these expectations!*

Final grades will be based on points earned as a percentage of a possible 150 points totaled from points earned on each assignment. Points earned will correspond with the percentage scale below:

90 and above = A
80 to 89.99 = B
70 to 79.99 = C
60 to 69.99 = D
below 60 = E

Reminder: please consult the specific assignment description for grading standards required for each of your submissions and other learning activities.

IX. ATTENDANCE/PARTICIPATION POLICIES:

Nb: *Students are expected to adhere to the MSU Attendance Policy outlined in the current MSU Graduate Bulletin.*

A. Adherence to the course outline schedule provided in the assignments sections is required. While

the course is delivered entirely online, opportunities for online asynchronous discussion and presentation are scheduled. Additionally, you may at any point consult with me individually as your instructor throughout the course as needed. These consultations are optional. You may email, phone, or arrange to meet with me at a mutually agreeable time.

B. While the course is delivered entirely online in asynchronous format, assignment and activity deadlines are as important as regular classroom meetings. Building on your experience, interests, and other inputs, your reports, presentations, and other submissions will sometimes be shared with classmates enrolled. To this extent, the class is managed in part as a participatory graduate seminar to take advantage of your perspectives. *The penalty for submission tardiness will be the lowering of one point per day late. Submission/participation tardiness over one week more than once may result in further grade reduction or failure.*

C. Individual extra work to improve a grade will not be allowed.

D. The instructor additionally expects students to be prepared to participate in discussion forum exchanges on a regular and timely basis.

X. ACADEMIC HONESTY POLICY:

Murray State University takes seriously its moral and educational obligation to maintain high standards of academic honesty and ethical behavior. Instructors are expected to evaluate students' academic achievements accurately, as well as ascertain that work submitted by students is authentic and the result of their own efforts, and consistent with established academic standards. Students are obligated to respect and abide by the basic standards of personal and professional integrity.

Violations of Academic Honesty include:

Cheating - Intentionally using or attempting to use unauthorized information such as books, notes, study aids, or other electronic, online, or digital devices in any academic exercise; as well as unauthorized communication of information by any means to or from others during any academic exercise.

Fabrication and Falsification - Intentional alteration or invention of any information or citation in an academic exercise. Falsification involves changing information whereas fabrication involves inventing or counterfeiting information.

Multiple Submission - The submission of substantial portions of the same academic work, including oral reports, for credit more than once without authorization from the instructor.

Plagiarism - Intentionally or knowingly representing the words, ideas, creative work, or data of someone else as one's own in any academic exercise, without due and proper acknowledgement.

Instructors should outline their expectations that may go beyond the scope of this policy at the beginning of each course and identify such expectations and restrictions in the course syllabus. When an instructor receives evidence, either directly or indirectly, of academic dishonesty, he or she should investigate the instance. The faculty member should then take appropriate disciplinary action.

Disciplinary action may include, but is not limited to the following:

- 1) Requiring the student(s) to repeat the exercise or do additional related exercise(s).
- 2) Lowering the grade or failing the student(s) on the particular exercise(s) involved.
- 3) Lowering the grade or failing the student(s) in the course.

If the disciplinary action results in the awarding of a grade of E in the course, the student(s) may not drop the course.

Faculty reserve the right to invalidate any exercise or other evaluative measures if substantial evidence exists that the integrity of the exercise has been compromised. Faculty also reserve the right to document in the course syllabi further academic honesty policy elements related to the individual disciplines.

A student may appeal the decision of the faculty member with the department chair in writing within five working days. Note: If, at any point in this process, the student alleges that actions have taken place that may be in violation of the Murray State University Non-Discrimination Statement, this process must be suspended and the matter be directed to the Office of Equal Opportunity. Any appeal will be forwarded to the appropriate university committee as determined by the Provost.

XI. NON-DISCRIMINATION POLICY STATEMENT:

Murray State University endorses the intent of all federal and state laws created to prohibit discrimination. Murray State University does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, gender, sexual orientation, religion, age, veteran status, or disability in employment, admissions, or the provision of services and provides, upon request, reasonable accommodation including auxiliary aids and services necessary to afford individuals with disabilities equal access to participate in all programs and activities. For more information, contact the Director of Equal Opportunity, 103 Wells Hall. 270-809-3155 (voice), 270-809-3361 (TDD).